3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MMI Aden MMI

for the more serious cases which are transferred to the Civil Hospital. One Assistant Medical Officer is stationed on Perim Island where there is a small dispensary, with limited accommodation for in-patients.

The Keith Falconer South Arabia Mission has a large and well equipped hospital at Sheikh Othman staffed normally by two European doctors and a European nursing staff. Other charitable institutions are two dispensaries, one maintained by public subscription with a Government subsidy and the other supported entirely by the prominent Parsi firm of Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Brothers.

The Royal Air Force hospital meets the medical requirements of the British Forces in Aden.

There are several dentists practising in the Colony, and the Royal Air Force has a fully qualified dentist, who is permitted private practice.

A total of 19,141 out-patients, and 2,366 in-patients received treatment during the year 1938 in the two Government hospitals, and, excluding the Royal Air Force hospital, but including other hospitals and dispensaries, a total of 67,694 out-patients and 3,872 in-patients were treated in the Colony during the year 1938 as compared with 60,069 and 3,206 in 1937.

The general health of Aden has remained satisfactory throughout the year. Many of the insect-borne diseases commonly found in tropical and subtropical countries are absent and, although a mild intestinal infection is very common, serious diseases such as typhoid fever and dysentery are rare. 1,292 cases of malaria were treated in the hospitals. From the investigation of the histories of these it was proved that all except 11 were due to infection acquired outside the Colony: all these cases were among service personnel resident in the leased military areas. The 12 cases of typhoid reported during the year show an increase on previous years, which is probably due to increased care taken in confirming the diagnosis of prolonged fevers. Minor outbreaks never assumed epidemic proportions, and in all cases water and milk supplies were examined and cleared from suspicion.

There is a leprosy hospital at Sheikh Othman supported partly by the Government of Aden and partly by Aden Settlement funds and administered medically by the staff of the Keith Falconer South Arabia Mission. Here again the Colony of Aden acts as the kind sister to her neighbours, as almost all the patients hail from the interior.

There has been no epidemic of major infectious or contagious diseases during the year. Chickenpox, measles and mumps crop up from time to time and are treated in the Infectious Diseases Hospital on Maala plain.

3 Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden M41

Primary Education

872 The normal primary course is of four to five years, consisting of a preparatory stage, of one to two years, and three standards above it. Primary education is given, so far as is possible, through the vernaculars of the pupils and, except in cases where the appropriate vernacular education is not obtainable, pupils are not normally allowed to enter a school in which English is used throughout as the medium of teaching until they have completed a primary course in their own vernacular. In Government schools and in most others English is not taught during the primary course.

[97] The language of over 60 per cent. of the population and the language of instruction in the Government Primary Schools, for both boys and girls, is Arabic. Primary school education for boys and girls is provided also through English, Gujarati and Urdu in aided schools and through Hebrew to a limited extent in unrecognised schools.

The following table gives the nominal roll and attendance figures for the primary schools in 1938 :—

	Number of Schools.				*Average Number on Rolls.*			*Average attendance.*
	Government.	*Aided.*	*Unrecognised.*	*Total.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*	
Boys ...	4	6	4	14	1,181	109*	1,290	1,140
Girls ...	2	4	1	7	20	527	547	474

* The large majority of these were in the lower classes of the Urdu schools.

The numbers of pupils in Government and aided primary schools were, boys 955, girls 468, total 1,423.

[79] Of the non-Government primary schools two aided boys' schools and one unrecognised boys' school are managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, one aided girls' school by the Danish Church Mission, one aided boys' school by the Church of Scotland Mission, and the rest by private local management.

872 873 At the end of the primary course a public examination is held through Arabic and Urdu, mainly as a qualifying test for admission to the lower section of the Government Secondary School. In 1938 127 candidates entered for this examination and 79 passed. Failure in this examination does not necessarily debar a pupil from entering the secondary school, but priority of place is generally given to those who pass.

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874 classes conducted by a member of the school staff and attended partly by pupils of the school and partly by students from outside. This class was discontinued when the teacher in charge proceeded on leave and it is not proposed to reconstitute it in the same form. The number of pupils in this class in 1938 up to the time of its dissolution was 16.

There is also an unrecognised institution, the Aden Commercial Institute, which provides both general and commercial education. The commercial subjects studied are mainly bookkeeping, typing and shorthand. The commercial classes are held in the evening and there is no age restriction to admission. Candidates from this institution are presented for the various certificate examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce. The number in these classes in 1938 was 142.

873 Evening classes for general education are also held regularly in 797 connection with a Young Men's Club managed by the Church of England Mission. These classes are more in the form of guidance towards self-study than of direct instruction and are attended by an average of about 25 young men, most of whom are Arabs.

Finance

871 Government expenditure on education in the calendar year 1938 658 amounted to Rs. 80,140 exclusive of cost of repairs to buildings. Of this sum, Rs. 20,678 were paid out in grants-in-aid.

Contributions towards expenditure on education are made by the Aden Settlement and by the Aden Port Trust. For the financial year 1938–39 these contributions amount to Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively.

School fees are charged in Government boys' schools at rates rising from 1 anna per month in Standard I in the Primary School to Rs. 2/8/– in Standard VI of the Secondary School. A number of free places are provided for poor and meritorious students. No fees are charged in the Government girls' schools.

General

000 Proposals for the improvement of education in Aden were submitted to the Secretary of State in 1938, and were generally approved. It is hoped to begin the introduction of these improvements early in 1939.

Welfare Institutions

657 There are as yet no welfare institutions in Aden Colony. The 735 Silver Jubilee (Destitute) Fund is administered by the Chairman of the Aden Settlement and the interest from the investments is used to provide for relief, principally at Sheikh Othman, but it is hoped to institute a Poor Relief Fund and a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic as the result of collections made at the Centenary Celebrations in 1939.